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NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

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NEW YORK MEMBERS EXPECTED TO VOTE "NO" ON AMENDMENT 2

A citizens' committee has made a special plea that the Northway be kept out of the Forest Preserve in the New York Adirondacks.

The committee and the Nature Conservancy Board feel northern New York's need for a highway can be met by a route along the west shore of Lake Champlain, which not only obviates the necessity of despoiling the Forest Preserve, but has the positive advantage of being lower and more level, with less snowfall. It could replace an obsolete State Highway (#22) which has hindered development in the valley towns and must soon be rebuilt at State expense. But this route has not even been submitted to the Federal authority and tremendous political pressure has been exerted to build the Northway through the Forest Preserve.

The full story of this threat can be read in the October issue of "Harpers' Magazine" in an article by the President (and his wife) of the Eastern New York Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Robert and Leona Rienow, called "Why Spoil the Adirondacks."

The authors ask the important question of whether we should build twentieth-century America around the people or around the motor car and truck. The first skirmishes have been fought by those who stubbornly adhere to the naive doctrine that the recreation, health, beauty outrank the fast trip--and the fast buck. The battle will be joined on November 3rd.

Those who believe in this vital issue can help give others the facts by sending their contributions to:

Citizens Northway Committee, Mr. Lawrence King, Tres.
1759 Wendell Avenue, Schenectady 8, New York

CALIFORNIA CANYON TO BE PRESERVED

Garrapata Canyon on the Pacific Coast 11 miles south of Carmel, California, is the site of a new project by the Monterey Bay Chapter. A heavily wooded stream passes through the 287-acre area, while brush-covered slopes rise steeply to over 1600-feet elevation. It includes an undisturbed coastal sage and grass complex, fast becoming rare because of sheep grazing, and a large stand of a species of native wild lilac limited to the Monterey Bay region. The $76,000 project will be carried out jointly with San Francisco State College, which will take over the tract as a biological field studies area. Heading up the project are Laidlaw Williams of Carmel and Dr. Robert I. Bowman of San Francisco State College.

CAN WE BUY NUBANUSIT?

North of Mt. Monadnock in southwestern New Hampshire, are the lakes called Spoonwood and Nubanusit. Between them is a mile-and-a-half long wooded peninsula--the so-called Island of Lake Nubanusit. It is connected to the mainland at one end by a neck two hundred yards wide and by a dam between the two lakes at the other. Although only 80 miles from Boston, this area is one of unspoiled beauty. Nubanusit is still relatively undeveloped and Spoonwood, the smaller lake, is without a house or a dock to mar its lovely wooded shore. The Island lies between these two lakes with four miles of unspoiled shoreline and 400 acres of uninhabited woodland. It contains a large stand of white pine, the nesting place of the osprey that soars overhead and the loons that cry weirdly in the night.

The present owner of the Island wishes to sell it and has granted the Conservancy the opportunity to buy it at a reduced price for preservation as a wildlife refuge and forest preserve. We have until December 1 to raise the necessary total of $125,000.

A twenty member project committee consisting of George K. Ripley, Richard E. Bennink, Conrad Chapman, Mrs. Margaret H. Clement, John J. Colony, Jr., J. Eugene Felch, Frederic W. Gleason, Richard H. Goodwin, Leon A. Hausman, Schuyler Hollingsworth, Martin J. Keenan, Leroy M. S. Miner, Robert C. Miner, Karl B. Musser, Jason C. Sawyer, George C. Shattuck, Simon Sheldon, Mrs. Robert D. Sterling, Francis P. Tolman, and Owen Tudor, is hard at work to meet the December 1st fund raising deadline.

ROCKY BRANCH

A mesophytic ravine known as "Rocky Branch" which has been used by educators, scientists, and students from Eastern Illinois University, the University of Illinois, and the Natural History Survey for more than 30 years is now a project of the Nature Conservancy. About 200 acres, presently in five ownerships, make up the key tract. Land costs for the entire project have been set at $21,000.

Relict species of plants and animals including fish and insects are found here. Some species of beech, tulip poplar, sour gum, certain salamanders and frogs, caddisflies and Trachythrips, reach their northern or western limits at this ravine. Rocky Branch is considered to be one of the top ten most interesting natural areas in Illinois. Much study still needs to be given relict species in this area to determine the causes of their survival.

ACTION IS TAKEN ON CRANESVILLE SWAMP

The Cranesville Swamp is to be preserved. At the June Board of Governors meeting, a local Committee was authorized under the general direction of Dr. Earl J. Core of Morgantown, West Virginia. Three members were appointed as sub-committee chairmen, one for each of the three states involved in the project which straddles the Maryland and West Virginia State lines, and almost gets into Pennsylvania. Maryland is represented by Mr. R. Thomas Thayer, Assistant District Forester, Oakland; West Virginia by Dr. Willem A. van Eck of the Agronomy Department, West Virginia University, Morgantown; and Dr. O. E. Jennings, Director Emeritus of Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh.

The Committee has begun work and is now taking options on properties in the Swamp which covers an area of about 600 acres. The elevation is around 2,500 feet.

Most of the area is an open montane bog with the fringes in coniferous forest. In the forest black spruce is the predominant tree, and the northern white pine, eastern hemlock, and larch or tamarack are associates. The spruce makes up about 60 percent of the stand, the pine and hemlock about 15 percent, and tamarack the balance. This is the southernmost native stand of tamarack.

The unique character of this area was recognized by the post-Revolutionary War settlers who called this area the "glades." Since 1873, the date of the first published natural history records, a steady stream of naturalists has recorded observations on this southern pocket of boreal life. A list of the unusual species of flora and fauna found in the Cranesville Swamp is available in a reprinted article by Romeo Mansueti which will be sent to anyone upon request to this office.

ANOTHER MISSOURI PRAIRIE SAVED

Place one more grassland jewel in the tiara! The Missouri Conservation Commission has acquired 1,440 acres of prairie land, of which over 1,000 is unbroken.

The scenic quality of this tall grass prairie should attract Kansas City residents the 60 miles to Taberville. The sandstone outcroppings which have saved this area from the plow are scattered across the landscape. A small post oak grove on a prairie knob, the waving grasses, and the wide spaces, make a sight picture reminiscent of the daguerreotypes of the Old West.

The area will be managed for prairie chickens which should insure the preservation of the prairie land intact. The present landowners have use rights which include grazing and harvesting of prairie hay on their properties through 1960, but none of the virgin prairie will be broken.

CALIFORNIA DEADLINE NEARS

On September 1, $20,000 had been received in contributions toward the Northern California Coast Range Preserve, the Conservancy's largest current project. This left $5,000 to be raised before November 1, when the first payment is due. Enthusiastic response was shown for the proposal that individuals contribute acres to the Preserve, at $33 for each acre. If the donor wishes, these "acres" may be designated as memorials.

McCULLOUGH URGES TRUE CONSERVATION

Dr. Herbert McCullough, our recently retiring Board member, is the new president of the Alabama Council on Conservation. A portion of Dr. McCullough's recent presidential address to the Alabama Academy of Science entitled "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," is worth repeating.

> "....Let man see himself in his proper place. Let him realize that while he has achieved partial mastery over his environment, he has a responsibility to his own kind, now and in subsequent generations, and to the environment of which he is a part, to fit his activities into the balance of nature. He can master his environment only by living with it and in it and for it, by realizing that he has a moral obligation to those who are to come and to nature itself, to so use the world about him that his activities will fall into the great plan of things."

COURT IS ASKED TO "SAVE WALDEN"

In 1923 Walden Pond was given to the State of Massachusetts under a deed providing that the property should be kept natural, as in the days of Thoreau and Emerson. The State conveyed the administration to the county, which built a small bathhouse and dock without serious protest. Later the Thoreau Society was organized. A few years ago the county began an unsightly development of bathing facilities and the Society brought court action to enjoin continuation of this program. A temporary restraining order halted the construction but this spring the Superior Court vacated the order and dismissed the petition.

Now "Save Walden Committee" has taken an appeal from the action of the Superior Court to the Supreme Judicial Court and will ask that Court to order the entry of a final decree permanently restraining the County Commissioners from making substantial changes at Walden Pond.

Additional funds up to $2,700 are needed to carry on the case and contributions are solicited and should be made to the Thoreau Society, Inc., mailed to Robert F. Needham, Treas., 11 Walden Terrace, Concord, Massachusetts.

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UNCLE SAM SAVES CORAL

Off Key Largo, Florida, twenty-one square miles of coral bottom is being set aside as the only salt water fishing reservation anywhere. An article in the New York Times tells how the Interior Department and the State of Florida are combining to do this in order to save the coral.

Why does the Government have to step in to save coral? Isn't there plenty of it lying around Florida? There is, but things are happening to it. People are going out and chipping it away to sell to tourists in gimmick shops. They are taking enough of it to endanger all of the coral bottom around Florida. The strip of coral to be set aside as a reservation extends three miles from shore and seven miles along the coast.

The idea of a coral reservation is fascinating. Where else are tourist dimes chipping away the bottom of the ocean to such an extent that the Federal Government and a sovereign state must step in to save it?

ANNUAL MEETING

Revision of the by-laws and election of new officers marked the 9th annual meeting of the Nature Conservancy. Mr. James B. Ross of Manhasset, Long Island, was elected to his second term as president. Mr. Ross is head of the college textbook department of the Reinhold Publishing Company.

Dr. Conrad Chapman of Boston, Massachusetts, was elected vice president. Mr. Elting Arnold of Chevy Chase, Maryland, and Mr. G. Flippo Gravatt, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Maryland, were reelected secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Eleven members were elected to the Board of Governors. Four new names appear in the Board list, Murray F. Buell, New Jersey, Lynton K. Caldwell, Indiana, Cyrus Mark, Illinois, and E. Gibbes Patton, Alabama.

Presentation of honorary membership scrolls to five long-time supporters of Nature Conservancy, was a feature of the annual membership meeting on August 31. Mr. Heath Angelo, Mr. John S. Apperson, Mrs. Anna R. Butler, Mr. Francis R. Cope, Jr., and Mr. Theodore M. Edison, were the recipients of these scrolls and have contributed wholehearted support in personal effort, land and money.

The new group of honorary members brings to ten, the people who have been so honored since the founding of the Conservancy. Others in the group beginning with 1953, include Dr. Victor E. Shelford, Dr. Albert M. Reese, Mr. Leslie N. Goodding, Dr. Reuben Strong, and Mr. Alvin Whitney.

The need for haste in setting aside natural areas in the face of our burgeoning population pressures was vividly brought out by Dr. H. K. Wallace, University of Florida biologist, in his talk at the Nature Conservancy luncheon. Wallace pointed out how many parts of the earth are already so over-populated that natural areas are impossible.

Miss Carol Woodward announced for the Colophon Judging Committee and the Board that all entries (about 30) were gradually eliminated for awards in the Colophon Contest. The Committee stated that while many entries were attractive and showed great talent, none were in their judgment suitable for use on our letterhead and publications, and no prizes were awarded.

The symposium on the "Use and Management of Natural Areas" was so well received that the members voted to publish the talks. Articles on education, research, public use, and management of natural areas by Dr. Peter W. Fletcher, Dr. W. G. McGinnies, Dr. Kenneth W. Hunt, and Mr. Daniel Smiley, along with the remarks of Dr. M. Graham Netting, Moderator, will be distributed shortly.

The amendments to the by-laws, as published in the June N.C. News, were, with one minor deletion, passed unanimously by the membership. A revised copy of the by-laws will be sent to the membership.

An important item voted by the members was the increase of annual membership to FIVE DOLLARS ($5.00) a year and Life Membership to TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION
JUNE 30, 1959

ASSETS

Current Assets	$ 10,851.65	
Investments	192,605.96	
Fixed Assets	2,340.22	
Total Assets		$ 205,797.83

LIABILITIES AND FUNDS

Liabilities		
Taxes Payable		$ 598.04
Funds		
Endowment Funds	$ 86,189.06	
Research Funds	195.20	
Educational Funds	368.06	
Natural Area Funds	56,292.15	
Regional & Chapter Funds	-747.53	
General Funds	62,902.85	
Total Funds		205,199.79
Total Liabilities & Funds		$ 205,797.83

INCOME (1958-59)

Dues & Contributions	$ 65,068.67	
Interest & Dividends	4,941.68	
Capital Gains - Stock	1,056.42	
Capital Gains - Sale of Equipment	545.15	
Total Income		$ 71,611.92

EXPENSES

Personnel	$ 35,411.73	
Rent & Utilities	2,727.15	
Travel	3,997.02	
Communication	2,956.76	
Operations	5,994.42	
Equipment	1,070.09	
General	2,652.80	
Total Expenses		54,809.97
Net Excess of Income Over Expense		$ 16,801.95

STATUS OF NATURAL AREAS MATCHING & LOAN FUNDS

Matching & Loan Fund	$ 50,000.00
Grants made from Fund during fiscal year	1,650.00
Balance in the Fund available for grants & loans	$ 48,350.00
Loan Fund	15,000.00
Total available for loans	$ 63,350.00
Total Loan Funds Committed	$ 64,600.00
Uncommitted Balance	-1,250.00

PROJECT LOAN FUNDS SUMMARY

	Funds Committed	Funds Withdrawn	Funds Repaid
Authorized Projects - 17	$ 70,550.	$ 31,480.	$ 5,950.
Repaid	5,950.	5,950.	
Balances	$ 64,600.	$ 25,430.	

* *

BOARD OF GOVERNORS REVIEWS PROGRESS AND MAKES NEW PLANS

At the meeting of the Board of Governors held at State College, Pennsylvania, in conjunction with the annual membership meeting August 31 and September 1, the following actions were taken:

Heard report of the following progress during the year-

Member total has risen from 2,583 to 3,204, an increase of 24%.
Life members have risen from 94 to 136, an increase of 45%.
Chapter total has risen from 7 to 14, an increase of 100%.
Projects held or under contract have risen from 17 to 21, an increase of 24%.
Acres held or under contract have risen from 2,459 to 6,405, and increase of 160%.
Estimated value of real estate owned or under contract has risen from $495,210 to $2,562,322, an increase of 417%.
Endowments for projects have risen from $36,033 to $55,035, an increase of 53%.

Approved payment of taxes on Kings Point Pond for interim period during transfer of title. Expressed hope that project funds would be raised to cover these tax bills.

Approved a small additional amount to the loan authorized for the Pine Hills, Indiana, property.

Approved such action as may be required for the Nature Conservancy to do business in Maine.

Disapproved any organization eligibility for "Life Membership".

Authorized the chartering of an Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

Tabled a proposal to again seek a Federal charter for the Conservancy.

Approved changes in the articles of incorporation of the Conservancy to make clearer the purposes of the Conservancy.

Authorized Long Island Chapter to accept in the name of The Nature Conservancy .871 acres of land in the Shinnecock Hills as a gift from Mrs. Estelle Atterbury.

Authorized Great Falls Committee to continue to explore methods for the purchase of the Falls for donation to the Federal government.

Authorized discontinuance of the partial payment plan for life membership except for the members who had already begun payment.

Encouraged the investigation by the Missouri Chapter of the possible donation of a 30-acre oak woodland in Missouri as a memorial to Dr. John Hyer.

Approved setting up a National Natural Areas Advisory Council.

Approved the outstanding work of Mr. Drake as Western Representative by appointing him to the position of Western Regional Director.

Voted their appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Edward N. Munns for their service to The Nature Conservancy.

Approved Rocky Branch natural area in Illinois as a project of the Illinois Chapter with $21,000 as the project goal for the 200 acres.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN SEEK VOLUNTEER MEMBERS

The committees of Nature Conservancy for 1959-1960 were announced by President James Ross at the annual meeting session of the Board of Governors. A new addition to the list is the National Natural Areas Advisory Council with three chairmen of three geographic panels. The membership of the panels will constitute the Council. The membership of each panel will be appointed by the panel chairman. Committees and their chairmen are listed below:

Management & Finance..... James B. Ross
*Endowment Fund..... Herbert L. Mason
Investment .....Neill Phillips
Fund-Raising ..... Richard H. Goodwin
*Publications ..... Carol Woodward
*Publicity ..... Alexander Adams
Nominating ..... Edward N. Munns
By-Laws & Election Rules ..... Robert J. Hamershlag
*Natural Areas Policy ..... Daniel Smiley
Western Advisory Board ..... Curtis Newcombe
*National Natural Areas Advisory Council:
*Eastern Panel..... Daniel Smiley
*Middle West Panel..... Robert Schery
*Far West Panel ..... Herbert L. Mason
*Chapter Affairs..... Robert Rienow
*Membership .....M. Graham Netting
*Natural Areas For Schools .....John W. Brainerd
*Ecological Study ..... F. Raymond Fosberg

Committee Chairmen are asking for volunteers for service on the * (marked) Committees.

RESEARCH ON NATURE CONSERVANCY AREAS?

One of the strongest reasons for the preservation of natural areas is their use in ecological studies. Most valuable are long-term or repeated observations on the fauna and flora, as well as studies of the vegetation and animal communities. To have maximum meaning both the natural areas and the research reports of each area should be made continuously available to other workers.

The committee on Ecological Studies wants to stimulate continuing research use as an important function of the areas we have preserved or have helped preserve. As a first step in this direction the committee needs to know which areas have already been the scene of studies of any kind. Therefore it is requested that the project committees, chapters, or other groups responsible for each of these natural areas send in information on all scientific studies that have been conducted either in part or entirely on their areas. If a published report has been issued a copy of this, or at least a correct reference to it, is needed. The subject area of current and proposed research projects, and their intended duration, along with the names of the investigators and sponsors and any plans for publication, are items of information the committee desires. Communications should be sent to the National Headquarters to be turned over to the Committee on Ecological Studies.

PERSONS AND PLACES

A report on the proposal to locate Interstate Highway Route 93 through FRANCONIA NOTCH STATE PARK in New Hampshire comes to us from the State Park Notes in "Planning and Civic Comment." Recent authorizing legislation specified "a parkway type of public highway" and the Clarkeson Engineering Company report emphasizes the recreation aspects of this region and the overwhelming recreation character of the highway travel. The highway location apparently is beyond further consideration and much now depends on the construction design to keep loss of scenic and recreation values to a minimum.

Swiss Pines Park is a new nature preserve recently set aside near historic Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, through the Bartschi Foundation. MR. CHARLES E. MOHR, former Director of the Audubon Center in Connecticut, is directing operations which call for the development of a nature center, ecological study areas, and nature trails. This nature preserve, which is operated under the supervision of the Philadelphia Academy of Science, can be reached on Charlestown Road about three miles south of Phoenixville (Address: R.R. 1, Malvern, Pa.)

Our attention has been called to an outstanding article printed in the Bulletin of the Garden Club of America, May 1959, "Conservation is Everybody's Business." This erudite talk by MRS. THOMAS M. WALLER sets an example for the many Garden Club Conservation Chairmen across the country and mentions many conservation projects that could be successful if the women of America decided to act.

Members should check back to the July 17th issue of Life Magazine to read or re-read "A Plan to Save Vanishing U.S. Countryside" by William H. Whyte, Jr. This major social problem of our times is one that bears a direct relation to the activities of the Nature Conservancy. A reprint of "Urban Sprawl," as published in Fortune Magazine by Mr. Whyte, is available upon request to this office.

The British Nature Conservancy has published a handsomely illustrated 40-page report of their work "The First Ten Years." Available from The Nature Conservancy, 19 Belgrave Square, London S.W.1, England, copies may be obtained for 25 cents. Every biology library at our institutions of higher learning should order a copy for its students. Our members may wish to compare the activities of our "sister" organization, which is an official branch of the British Government.

The gift of a New Jersey hilltop called the Montclair Hawk Lookout Sanctuary was announced recently. Mr. GEORGE W. BRECK, an electronics engineer, bought the land, an old quarry, and said that he turned it over to the Montclair Bird Club so that "our children's children can enjoy such spectacles (the hawk flights) as we see here today."

With the passing of BRUCE F. STILES, long-time Director of the Iowa Conservation Commission, the cause of prairie preservation loses a strong supporter. Under Stiles' leadership three Iowa prairies were set aside as botanical preserves.

At the Eastern New York Chapter meeting held on September 13, 1959, the following new officers and members of the Board of Trustees were elected: Chairman, Dr. Fraser P. Price (Dr. Robert Rienow acting chairman until January 1960); Vice-chairman, Mrs. Charles J. Grace; Secretary, Miss Elizabeth A. Feldhusen; Treasurer, Mr. Edward B. Clements; Trustees (for three-year terms): Mr. Robert H. Everitt (one-year term to fill vacancy); Mr. Peter L. Fulvio; Dr. Paul C. Lemon; Dr. Robert Rienow.

The Western New York Chapter held its annual meeting on Saturday, October 3, 1959, at Rochester, New York, and elected a new secretary, MRS. JOHN E. BACON.

A group of naturalists at Watertown, New York, are undertaking efforts to preserve a stretch of shoreline on Lake Ontario which is a key stopover point on the flyway of shorebirds--one of the best birding areas in the East.

The bill to create a Youth Conservation Corps, S.812, was passed by the Senate by a narrow, two-vote margin on August 13. It now has to wait until the House Committee on Education and Labor gives it consideration in the next session, after which it must go to the House floor for vote.

The second stage of the Missouri Holly preservation project has begun with the active campaigning of the Garden Clubs of Southeast Missouri for funds to complete land purchase, MRS. HUGH ASHLEY, JR., Conservation Chairman for Southeast Missouri reports. The first 40-acre section has already been acquired by the Missouri Chapter in the name of the Nature Conservancy.

Our garden club members have two new National Conservation Chairmen. MRS. ROWLAND ROBINSON from Wakefield, Rhode Island, is serving the cause of conservation for the Garden Club of America, and MISS HELEN M. MARTIN has assumed this big job for thousands of federated clubs in the National Council of State Garden Clubs.

The Wilderness Bill was not reported to the floor in the first session of the 86th Congress but its early consideration in the second session (January 1960) is anticipated by Senator James E. Murray (Montana), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

On September 26, 1959, Mr. Edward H. Bennett, Jr., Dr. Clark W. Finnerud, Mr. G. Wesley Smith, and Dr. Loren P. Woods, were newly elected to the Board of Trustees of the Illinois Chapter, and present chapter officers and trustees were reelected.

The Minnesota Chapter has had to cancel its Kenyon Woods project due to the default of key landowners on an oral agreement to sell. A chapter meeting is planned for October 22nd in Minneapolis.

DR. EDMUND H. HAMANN has been appointed to Chairmanship of the Mianus Gorge Committee, replacing Robert Hamershlag who remains an active member of the Conservancy Board of Governors. Mianus is one of the oldest active projects of the Conservancy and is well worth a trip to those members who have not yet visited the Gorge.

SECRETARY BENSON SETS ASIDE EARTHQUAKE AREAS

Agriculture Secretary Benson, after viewing the earthquake-damaged national forest areas near Yellowstone Park, proposed that evidences of the earthquake be preserved. "Scientists today and in the future will want to study the effects of this earthquake, one of the worst the country has ever experienced. We can make such study and public observation possible only by setting the area aside for this special use," he said.

Following Mr. Benson's suggestion, the U. S. Forest Service announced plans to establish a special Earthquake Geologic Area in the Gallatin and Beaverhead National Forests which sustained the brunt of shock waves during the Montana earthquake. An intensive survey already has been initiated by the Forest Service to assess effects of the shock.

The Earthquake Geologic Area is expected to include the giant rock slide which dammed the Madison River, the new lake it created and many of the prominent faults and fissures which resulted from this natural phenomenon. The area will be managed to protect and preserve evidence of earthquake action so that it will be available for observation and study. Special trails, overlooks and interpretative signs are planned and the development work will be begun after the emergency work of opening roads and restoring damaged facilities has been accomplished.

Richard E. McArdle, Chief of the Forest Service, has said his organization would cooperate in appropriate plans to establish a memorial within the Gallatin Forest in memory of those who lost their lives in the earthquake, one of the strongest recorded in recent U. S. history.

SEASHORE AREAS SOUGHT BY CONGRESSMEN

Increased concern of members of Congress for seashore preservation is evidenced by a score of congressional bills aimed at preserving parts of the nation's shoreline. Some bills have singled out for inclusion within the National Park Service system, areas such as Cape Cod, Massachusetts; Padre Island, Texas; Indiana Dunes, Indiana; and Point Reyes, California. Other "Save Our Shoreline" bills calling for a system of seashore and Great Lake shoreline areas have been proposed by both the Department of the Interior (S. 2010, Sen. Neuberger-D. Ore.) and by 18 senators calling for a Shoreline Preservation Program (S. 2460). The latter bill proposes up to 50 million dollars for acquisition and aid to state projects, the actual preservation of 10 areas, and the investigation of 10 additional sites. The administration's bill asks for 15 million for the acquisition of up to 100,000 acres of shoreline lands in areas ranking highest in national importance. Although no new seashore area was authorized by the Congress, chances for the approval of several areas such as Cape Cod, Padre Island, and the Oregon Dunes look much brighter for next year. By a disheartening vote of 4 to 3 against, the proposal to save the Indiana Dunes as a national monument was never reported out of sub-committee. Increasing public reaction has been evidenced in the current efforts to revive the Dunes project, but unfortunately, construction contracts have already been let by the steel companies and ground in the dunes has been broken. Present preservation prospects would indeed seem dark.

Provisions for the protection of the lands of private individuals (at least those personal rights in land which are compatible with preservation of an area) are embodied in the new Cape Cod National Seashore Area, Senate Bill 2636. This concept should go a long way in calming fears of local landowners within proposed shoreline areas. It would seem that where there are already large numbers of private landowners in lands proposed as national park units, it might be necessary to follow the recent British pattern of zoning large areas and gradually eliminating the non-conforming uses.

COLORADO GETS NEW ECOLOGICAL AREA IN THE ELK MOUNTAINS

The Forest Service has set aside 2324 acres in the Gunnison National Forest as a "special use area for studying flora, fauna and geology." The areas are adjacent to the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, a field station giving courses and providing facilities to independent investigations in the Elk Mountains of Colorado. Most of the areas are above timberline but they include some spruce, fir, and lodgepole forest. The boundaries of the Gothic Natural Area in the same valley have recently been changed, and the area enlarged to 1070 acres. The Gothic Natural Area contains spruce fir forest, grassland and alpine areas.

GREAT GULF WILD AREA IS PROPOSED

Upper Darby, Pa. -- Regional Forester Hamilton K. Pyles here has announced that the U. S. Forest Service intends to establish the Great Gulf Wild Area within the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire. The area includes some 5,400 acres of National Forest land in Coos County, N. H. The tract, to be the first wild area in the Eastern Region of the Forest Service, has outstanding scenic values.

SEND US NEWS ON NATURAL AREAS IN YOUR STATE!

* *

The Nature Conservancy is an independent member-governed organization dedicated to saving America's heritage of wild nature. Its specific objective is to preserve natural areas as "living museums". Such tracts are precious for their scientific, educational, and aesthetic values. They provide a home for many living things that would otherwise be destroyed by our civilization.

The work of the organization began in 1917 under the direction of a committee of the Ecological Society of America. In 1946, the Ecologists Union was formed to take over the task. In 1950, the name was changed to The Nature Conservancy: incorporation in the District of Columbia took place in 1951.

Nature Conservancy now has a national membership of approximately 3,000. It operates through a series of chapters, of which thirteen have been organized to date. It has acquired, by gift or purchase, 20 nature preserves in nine states, having an area of some 2,500 acres. These range in size from one acre to 1,000 acres. Nature Conservancy is now actively working toward the acquisition of additional natural areas in six additional states, the total area of which is about 8,000 acres.

The members of The Nature Conservancy invite you to join in its work. Membership is open to both individuals and organizations. A contribution of $3 or more entitles you to annual membership, one of $100 or more to life membership, and one of $1,000 or more to patron membership. Your contribution is an allowable income tax deduction.

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